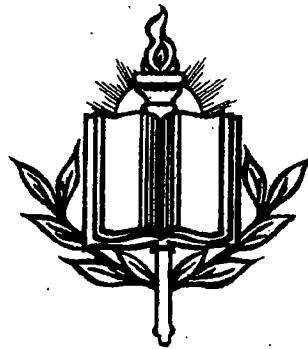


EXHIBIT 2

WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIC UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language

GRAMERCY BOOKS
New York

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Ras Shamra

1602

ratio

harsh; grating; rasping. 2. easily annoyed; irritable. [1830-40; RASP + -Y'] —raspi'ness, n.

Ras Shamra (răs shām'ră), a locality in W Syria, near the Mediterranean Sea: site of ancient Ugarit; many archaeologically important objects dating to the Bronze Age.

ras-sle (răs'ĕl), v.i., u.t., -sled, -sling. n. Dial. wrestler. **Rasta** (răs'tă, ră'stă), n. 1. Rastafarian (def. 1)... 2. Rastafarianism. —adj. 3. Rastafarian (def. 2). [by shortening]

Ras-ta-far-i-**i** (răs'tă făr'ĕ, -făr'ĕ, -făr'stă, -făr'stă-), n. 1. Rastafarian (def. 1). 2. Rastafarianism. —adj. 3. Rastafarian (def. 2).

Ras-ta-far-i-an (răs'tă făr'ĕ en, -făr'ĕ, -făr'stă-), n. 1. a follower of Rastafarianism. —adj. 2. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Rastafarianism or Rastafarians. [*Amharic ras tafari Prince Tafari, the pre-coronation name of Haile Selassie (ras prince, orig. head; tăfări an Amharic personal name, lit. (one to be) feared, respected, prp. from passive s. fără (v.) fear, respect) + -AN*]

Ras-ta-far-i-an-ism (răs'tă făr'ĕ a niz'ĕm, -făr'ĕ, -făr'stă-), n. a religious cult, originally of Jamaica, that regards Africa as the Promised Land to which all true believers will someday return, and the late Haile Selassie I, former emperor of Ethiopia, as the messiah. [RASTAFARIAN + -ISM]

Ras-ta-ter (răs'tăr), n. 1. Television. a pattern of scanning lines covering the area upon which the image is projected in the cathode-ray tube of a television set. 2. Computers. a set of horizontal lines composed of individual pixels, used to form an image on a CRT or other screen. [1950-55; < G < L rästrum toothed hoe, rake, deriv. of räder to scratch, scrape]

ras-tie (răs'ĕl), v.i., u.t., -tied, -tling. n. Dial. wrestle. **ra-sure** (răz'hăr, -shor), n. an erasure. [< MF răs(r)e, équiv. to L răs(us) (ptp. of rădere to scratch, scrape; cf. RASORIAL, RAZE) + -ura-] **rat** (răt), n., interj., u.t., rat-ed, rat-ing. —n. 1. any of several long-tailed rodents of the family Muridae, of the genus *Rattus* and related genera, distinguished from the mouse by being larger. 2. any of various similar or related animals. 3. Slang. a scoundrel. 4. Slang. a person who abandons or betrays his or her party or associates, esp. in a time of trouble. b. an informer. c. a scab laborer. 5. a pad with tapered ends formerly used in women's hair styles to give the appearance of greater thickness. 6. smell a rat, to suspect or surmise treachery; have suspicion: After noting several discrepancies in his client's story, the attorney began to smell a rat. —interj. 7. rats. Slang. (an exclamation of disappointment, disgust, or disbelief.) —u.t. 8. Slang. a. to desert one's party or associates, esp. in a time of trouble. b. to turn informer; squeak: He ratified on the gang, and the police arrested them. c. to work as a scab. 9. to hunt or catch rats. —u.t. 10. to dress (the hair) with or as if with a rat. [bef. 1000; ME rati(e), OE ræt; c. D rat, G Rat, Ratt(e); —rat'like, adj.]

rat-a-ble (răt'ă bĕl), adj. 1. capable of being rated or appraised. 2. proportional: ratable distribution of wealth. Also, retable. [1495-1505; RATE' + -ABLE] —rat'a-bil'i-ty, rat'a-bil'e-ness, n. —rat'a-bly, adv.

rat-a-fia (răt'ă fē'ă), n. a sweet liqueur made from wine or grape juice combined with brandy or other spirits and often flavored with almonds, fruit, or fruit kernels. Also, rat-a-fee (răt'ă fē'). [1690-1700; < F] **ratataf/a bis/cuit**, Brit. a macaroon.

rat-al (răt'ăl), n. Brit. the amount on which rates or taxes are assessed. [1855-60; RATE' + -AL]

rat-an (răt'ăn, răt'), n. rattan.

rat-a-plan (răt'ă plă'n), n., v., -planned, -plan-ning. —n. 1. a sound of or as of the beating of a drum. —u.t. 2. to produce such a sound. [1840-50; < F; imit.]

rat-a-tat (răt'ă tăt'), n. a sound of knocking or rattling; sharp rat-a-tat on the window. Also, rat'-a-tat'-tat'. [1675-85; imit.]

rat-a-touille (răt'ă töö'lĕ, -twë'; Fr. RA tă töö'yă), n. a vegetable stew of Provence, typically consisting of eggplant, zucchini, onions; green peppers, tomatoes, and garlic; served hot or cold. [1875-80; < F]

rat/bite fe'ver (răt/bit'), Pathol. either of two relapsing febrile diseases, widely distributed geographically, caused by infection with *Streptobacillus moniliformis* or *Spirillum minor* and transmitted by rats. [1905-10; RAT + BITE]

rat-catch'er (răt/kăch'ĕr), n. 1. a person, animal, or thing that catches and exterminates rats, esp. a person whose business it is to rid a property of rats. 2. Chiefly Brit. an informal fox-hunting costume, as a tweed jacket and tan riding breeches. [1685-95; RAT + CATCHER]

ratch (răch), n. a ratchet.

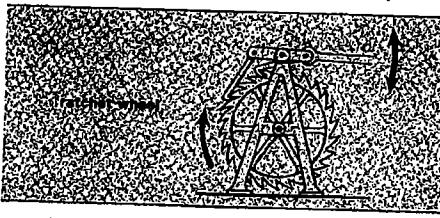
rat/ cheese, Informal. inexpensive cheese, esp. domestic cheddar. [1935-40, Amer.; presumably so called because it is deemed suitable only for rattraps]

ratch-et (răch'ĕt), n. 1. a toothed bar with which a pawl engages. 2. (not in technical use) a pawl or the like used with a ratchet or ratchet wheel. 3. a mechanism consisting of such a bar or wheel with the pawl. 4. See ratchet wheel. 5. a steady progression up or down: the upward ratchet of oil prices. —u.t., u.i. 6. to move by degrees (often fol. by up or down): to ratchet prices up. Interest rates have been ratcheting downward. [1650-60; alter. of F rochet; MF roquette a blunt lance-head < Gmc]

ratch'et effect', intermittent growth, increase, expansion, or the like: the ratchet effect of defense expenditures. [1965-70]

ratch'et jack', a screw jack rotated by a ratchet mechanism. [1870-75]

ratch'et wheel', a wheel, with teeth on the edge, into which a pawl drops or catches, as to prevent reversal of motion or convert reciprocating motion into rotary motion. [1770-80]



rat' claw/ foot', Furniture. an elongated foot having the form of a thin claw grasping a ball.

rate' (răt), n., u.t., rat-ed, rat-ing. —n. 1. the amount of a charge or payment with reference to some basis of calculation: a high rate of interest on loans. 2. a certain quantity or amount of one thing considered in relation to a unit of another thing and used as a standard or measure: at the rate of 60 miles an hour. 3. a fixed charge per unit of quantity: a rate of 10 cents a pound. 4. price; cost: to cut rates on all home furnishings. 5. degree of speed, progress, etc.: to work at a rapid rate. 6. degree or comparative extent of action or procedure: the rate of increase in work output. 7. relative condition or quality; grade, class, or sort. 8. assigned position in any of a series of graded classes; rating. 9. Insurance. the premium charge per unit of insurance. 10. a charge by a common carrier for transportation, sometimes including certain services involved in rendering such transportation. 11. a wage paid on a specified time basis: a salary figured on an hourly rate. 12. a charge or price established in accordance with a scale or standard: hotel rates based on length of stay. 13. Horol. the relative adherence of a timepiece to perfect timekeeping, measured in terms of the amount of time gained or lost within a certain period. 14. Usually, rates. Brit. a. a tax on property for some local purpose. b. any tax assessed and paid to a local government, as any city tax or district tax. 15. at any rate, a. in any event; in any case. b. at least: It was a mediocre film, but at any rate there was one outstanding individual performance. —u.t. 16. to estimate the value or worth of; appraise: to rate a student's class performance. 17. to esteem, consider, or account: He was rated one of the best writers around. 18. to fix at a certain rate, as of charge or payment. 19. to value for purposes of taxation or the like. 20. to make subject to the payment of a certain rate or tax. 21. to place in a certain rank, class, etc., as a ship or a sailor; give a specific rating to. 22. to be considered or treated as worthy of merit: an event that doesn't even rate a mention in most histories of the period. 23. to arrange for the conveyance of (goods) at a certain rate. —u.t. 24. to have value, standing, etc.: a performance that didn't rate very high in the competition. 25. to have position in a certain class. 26. to rank very high in estimation: The new teacher really rates with our class. [1375-1425; (n.) late ME rate monetary value, estimated amount, proportional part < ML rata < L (pro)rata (parte) (according to), an estimated (part), rată abl. sing. of rata, fem. of ratus, ptp. of rati to judge; (v.) late ME raten to estimate the value (of), deriv. of the n.] —Syn. 5. pace. 16. rank, classify, measure.

rate² (răt'), u.t., u.i., rat-ed, rat-ing. to chide vehemently; scold. [c. 1350-1400; ME (o)raten, perh. < Scand; cf. Sw. Norw. rat to reject] —rat'er, n.

rat-a-tat (răt'ă tăt'), n. a sound of knocking or rattling; sharp rat-a-tat on the window. Also, rat'-a-tat'-tat'. [1675-85; imit.] **rat-a-tat**, n. a substance or preparation for killing rats. [1840-50; RAT + -I + -ATE] —rat'li-

rat-a-plan (răt'ă plă'n), n. the act of ratifying; confirmation; sanction. 2. the state of being ratified. [1400-50; late ME < ML ratificatio- (s. of ratificare), equiv. to ratificat(us) (ptp. of ratificare to ratify) + -iōn- -ION'] —rat'ifi-ca-tion, n.

rat-if-i-fy (răt'ă fi'), u.t., -fi-ed, -fi-ying. 1. to confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction: to ratify a constitutional amendment. 2. to confirm (something done or arranged by an agent or by representatives) by such action. [1325-75; ME ratifien < MF ratifier < ML ratificare, equiv. to L rat(u)s (calculated see RATE') + -ificare -IFY] —rat'ifi'er, n.

—Syn. 1. corroborate, approve. 2. validate, establish.

—Ant. 1. veto, disapprove.

rat-in'b (răt'ăn' bĕl), n. a loosely woven fabric made with nubby or knotty yarns. Also, ratin'ne (răt'ăn' nă), ratin'. Also called sponge cloth. [1675-85; < F, ptp. of ratiner to make a nap on cloth]

rat-ing (răt'ăng), n. 1. classification according to grade or rank. 2. assigned position in a particular class or grade, or relative standing, as of a ship or a member of the armed forces. 3. the credit standing of a person or firm. 4. Radio, Television. a percentage indicating the number of listeners to or viewers of a specific program. 5. a designated operating limit for a machine, apparatus, etc., as of voltage, load, or frequency, based on specified conditions. 6. an amount fixed as a rate. 7. Brit. apportioning of a tax. 8. Chiefly Brit. one of the enlisted personnel in the British navy. [1625-35; RATE' + -ING']

rat-ing' (răt'ăng'), n. an angry reprimand or rebuke; scolding. [1670-80; RATE' + -ING']

rat-ing badge, U.S. Navy. a badge that indicates the rank and specialty of a petty officer: worn on the upper left sleeve. [1805-10]

rat-ing nut, Horol. a nut that screws onto the lower end of the rod of a clock pendulum for raising or lowering the weight to alter the rate of the clock.

ratio (răsh'ă, -shă ăsh'ă), n., pl. -tios. 1. the relation between two similar magnitudes with respect to the number of times the first contains the second: the ratio of 5 to 2, written 5:2 or 5/2. 2. proportional relation; rate: the

rate/-of-climb/ in/dicator (răt'ev klim'), Aerol. a flight instrument that indicates the rate of climb or descent of an aircraft. [1945-50]

rate/ of exchange', See exchange rate. [1720-30]

rate/pay'er (răt'pa'er), n. 1. a person who pays a regular charge for the use of a public utility, as gas or electricity, usually based on the quantity consumed. 2. Brit. a person who pays rates; a taxpayer of the local government. [1635-45; RATE' + PAYER] —rate'pay'er, adj.

rat'er (răt'ĕr), n. 1. a person who makes rates or ratings. 2. a person or thing that is of a specific rating (usually used in combination): The show's star is a fire-rater. 3. Slang. any of various small, popular yachts belonging to standard classes. [1605-16; RATE' + -ER']

rat-flink (răt'flingk'), n. Slang. flink (defs. 3, 4). [1860-66; RAT + FLINK]

rat/fish (răt'fish'), n., pl. (esp. collectively) -fish, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species). -fish-es. a chimaera, *Hydrolagus collettei*, of the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to Lower California, having a ratlike tail. [1880-85; Amer.; RAT + FISH]

rat/guard', a disk of sheet metal fitted around a hawser to prevent rats from boarding a vessel moored at a dock.

Rath-bone (răth'bōn), n. Basil, 1892-1967, English actor, born in South Africa.

rathe (răth), adj. Archaic. growing, blooming, or ripening early in the year or season. Also, rath (rath). [bef. 900; ME hræth, hræd quick, active; c. D rad, ON hrattr] —rathe'ly, adv. —rathe'ness, n.

Rathe-nau (răt'h'n ou'), n. Walther (văl'tor), 1867-1922, German industrialist, writer, and statesman.

rathe-r (adv. rath'er, răt'hĕr; interj. rath'ĕr, răt'hĕrsh'), adv. 1. in a measure; to a certain extent; somewhat: rather good. 2. in some degree: I rather thought you would regret it. 3. more properly or justly; with better reason: The contrary is rather to be supposed. 4. sooner; more readily or willingly: to die rather than yield. 5. more properly or correctly speaking; more truly: He is a painter or, rather, a watercolorist. 6. on the contrary: It's not generosity, rather self-interest. 7. had or would rather, to prefer that or to: I had much rather we not stay. We would rather go for dinner after the show. —interj. 8. Chiefly Brit. emphatically yes; assuredly; without doubt: Is the book worth reading? Rather! [bef. 900; ME OE hrathor, comp. of hrath quick, rathe]

Rath'ke's pouch' (răt'kăs), Embryol. an invagination of stomodaeum ectoderm developing into the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland. Also called Rath'ke's pocket. [c. 1940-45; named after Martin Heinrich Rathke (1793-1860), German anatomist]

rat-hole (răt'hōl'), n. 1. a hole made by a rat, as into a room, barn, etc.: The first chore in the old building was to plug up the ratholes. 2. the burrow or shelter of a rat. 3. any small and uncomfortable room, office, apartment, etc., esp. one that is dirty or disordered: He lives in a rathole near the docks. 4. down the rathole, for a worthless purpose or purposes: seeing your inheritance disappear down the rathole. [1805-15; RAT + HOLE]

rats'-kel-ler (răt'skĕl'ĕr, rat'-, rat'h'-, răt'-), n. (in Germany) the cellar of a town hall, often used as a beer hall or restaurant. 2. a restaurant patterned on the German ratskeller, usually located below street level. [1860-65; < G, equiv. to Rath (extracted from Rathaus town hall) + -s' + Keller CELLAR]

rat-lick'de (răt'ĕ sid'), n. a substance or preparation for killing rats. [1840-50; RAT + -I + -CIDE] —rat'li-

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CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; ; , blend; c, cognate with; cf, compare; derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; oblique, r, replacing, e, stem; sp, spelling, spelled; resp, respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ?, origin unknown; *, unattested; t, probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

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ratiocinate

1603

ratio between acceptances and rejections. 3. Finance, the relative value of gold and silver in a bimetallic currency system. [1630-40; < L *ratio* a reckoning, account, calculation, deriv. (see -TION) of the base of *rati* to judge, think.]

ra-ti-o-ci-nate (rash'ē nāt' or nāsh', -sāsh', rat'shāt), v.t., -nated, -nat-ing, to reason, carry on a process of reasoning. [1635-45; < L *ratiocinātus* pp. of *ratiocinātū* to reckon, calculate, conclude, v. deriv. of *ratiō* reason] —**ra-ti-o-ci-na-tor**, n.

ra-ti-o-ci-na-tion (rash'ē nāsh'ēn, -sāsh'ēn, rat'shātēn), n. 1. the process of logical reasoning. [1620-30; < L *ratiocinātiō* (s. of *ratiocinātū*), equiv. to *ratiocinātū* (us) (see RATIOCINATE) + -TION- -ION] —**ra-ti-o-ci-na-tive**, adj.

ra-ti-o-m-e-ter (rā shē om'i tēr), n. (in three-color photography) a device for determining the exposure factors of the filters to be used. [1920-25, for an earlier sense; RATIO + -METER]

ra-tion (rash'ēn, ra'shēn), n. 1. a fixed allowance of provisions or food, esp. for soldiers or sailors or for civilians during a shortage: a daily ration of meat and bread. 2. an allotted amount: They finally saved up enough gas rations for the trip. 3. rations, a. provisions: Enough rations were brought along to feed all the marchers. b. Chiefly South Atlantic States food or meals: The old hotel still has the best rations in town. —v.t. 4. to supply, apportion, or distribute as rations (often fol. by out): to ration out food to an army. 5. to supply or provide with rations: to ration an army with food. 6. to restrict the consumption of (a commodity, food, etc.); to ration meat during war. 7. to restrict the consumption of (a consumer): The civilian population was rationed while the war lasted. [1840-50; < F < L *rationē* (s. of *ratio*; see REASON)] —**Syn.** 1. **2**, portion, allotment. 1, 3. See food. 4. mete, dole, allot.

ra-tio-nal (rash'ē nl, rash'ē nl), adj. 1. agreeable to reason; reasonable; sensible: a rational plan for economic development. 2. having or exercising reason, sound judgment, or good sense: a calm and rational negotiator. 3. being in or characterized by full possession of one's reason; sane; lucid: The patient appeared perfectly rational. 4. endowed with the faculty of reason: rational beings. 5. of, pertaining to, or constituting reasoning power: the rational faculty. 6. proceeding or derived from reason or based on reasoning: a rational explanation. 7. Math. a. capable of being expressed exactly by a ratio of two integers b. (of a function) capable of being expressed exactly by a ratio of two polynomials. 8. Class. Pro. capable of measurement in terms of the metrical unit or mora. —n. 9. Math. See rational number. [1360-1400; ME *rationel* < L *rationēlis*, equiv. to *ration-* (s. of *ratio*) + -ēlis, -ēlī] —**ra-tio-nal-ity**, **adu.** —**ra-tio-nal-ness**, **n.** —**Syn.** 2. intelligent, wise, judicious, sagacious, enlightened. 6. See reasonable. —**Ant.** 2. stupid. 3. insane.

ra-tio-nale (rash'ē nlēl'), n. 1. the fundamental reason or reasons serving to account for something. 2. a statement of reasons. 3. a reasoned exposition of principles. [1650-60; < L *neut. of rationālis RATIONAL*] —**Syn.** 1. logic, basis, grounds.

ra-tio-nal-e-mo-tive ther'ap-y (rash'ē nl ī mōt'iv), Psychol. a form of therapy in which a patient is asked to reject irrational attitudes and assumptions in order to deal effectively with stressful situations.

ra-tio-nal form', Math. a quotient of two polynomials with integral coefficients.

ra-tio-nal func'tion, Math. a function that can be written as the quotient of two polynomials with integral coefficients. [1680-85]

ra-tio-nal-ism (rash'ē nl iz'm), n. 1. the principle or habit of accepting reason as the supreme authority in matters of opinion, belief, or conduct. 2. Philos. a. the doctrine that reason alone is a source of knowledge and is independent of experience. b. (in the philosophies of Descartes, Spinoza, etc.) the doctrine that all knowledge is expressible in self-evident propositions or their consequences. 3. Theol. the doctrine that human reason, unaided by divine revelation, is an adequate or the sole guide to all attainable religious truth. 4. Archit. (often cap.) a. a design movement principally of the mid-19th century that emphasized the development of modern ornament integrated with structure and the decorative use of materials and textures rather than as added adornment. b. the doctrines and practices of this movement. Cf. functionalism (def. 1). [1790-1800; RATIONAL + -ISM] —**ra-tio-nal-ist**, n. —**ra-tio-nal-istic**, **adj.** —**ra-tio-nal-i-ty**, **adj.**

ra-tio-nal-i-ty (rash'ē nl i tē), n., pl. -ties. 1. the state or quality of being rational. 2. the possession of reason. 3. agreeableness to reason; reasonableness. 4. the exercise of reason. 5. a reasonable view, practice, etc. [1860-70; < LL *rationālitās* reasonableness. See RATIONAL, -ITY]

ra-tio-nal-i-ze (rash'ē nl iz', rash'ē nl iz', -zē, -zē), v.t., -ized, -iz-ing. —v.t. 1. to ascribe (one's acts, opinions, etc.) to causes that superficially seem reasonable and valid but that actually are unrelated to the true, possibly unconscious and often less creditable or agreeable causes. 2. to remove unreasonable elements from. 3. to make rational or conformable to reason. 4. to treat or explain in a rational or rationalistic manner. 5. Math. to eliminate radicals from (an equation or expression): to rationalize the denominator of a fraction. 6. Chiefly Brit. to reorganize and integrate (an industry). —v.i. 7. to invent plausible explanations for acts, opinions, etc., that are actually based on other causes: He tried to prove that he was not at fault, but he was obviously rationalizing. 8. to employ reason; think in a rational or rationalistic manner. Also, esp. Brit., **ra-tio-nal-ise**. [1810-20; RATIONAL + -IZE] —**ra-tio-nal-i-zation**, n. —**ra-tio-nal-i-zer**, n.

Usage. Although RATIONALIZE retains its principal 19th-century sense "to make conformable to reason" and "to treat in a rational manner," 20th-century psy-

chology has given it the now more common meaning "to ascribe (one's acts, opinions, etc.) to causes that seem reasonable but actually are unrelated to the true, possibly unconscious causes." Although the possibility of ambiguity exists, the context will usually make clear which sense is intended.

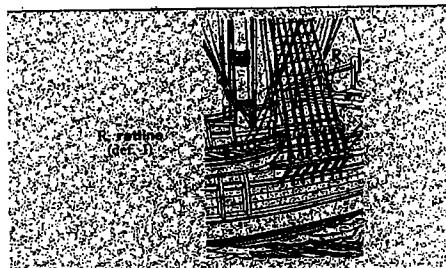
ra-tio-nal num'ber, Math. a number that can be expressed exactly by a ratio of two integers. [1900-05] —**ra-tio-nal opera'tion**, any of the mathematical operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. [1900-05]

ra-tio-test', Math. the theorem that a given infinite series converges if the absolute value of the ratio of the term succeeding the *n*th term to the *n*th term approaches a limit less than 1 as *n* increases without bound.

Rat-is-bon (rat'is bon', -iz'), n. Regensburg.

rat-ite (rat'it), adj. 1. having a flat, unkeeled sternum, as an ostrich, cassowary, emu, or moa. —n. 2. a bird having a ratite sternum. [1875-80; < L *rat(is)* raft + -ITE']

rat-kan-ga-roo (rat'kang'go rōo'), n., pl. -roos. any of several rabbit-sized, ratlike Australian kangaroos of the subfamily Potoroinae. [1840-50]



rat-line (rat'lin), n. Naut. 1. any of the small ropes or lines that traverse the shrouds horizontally and serve as steps for going aloft. 2. Also, **rat'line stuff'**. three-stranded, right-laid, tarred hemp stuff of from 6 to 24 threads, used for ratlines, lashings, etc. Also, **rat'lin**. [1475-85; earlier *ratling*, *radelyng* < ?]

RA-to-TOON (rä tōōn'), n. Rocketry. rocket-assisted takeoff.

ra-toon (rä tōōn'), n. 1. a sprout or shoot from the root of a plant, esp. a sugarcane, after it has been crept. —v.t. 2. to put forth or cause to put forth crocuses. Also, **rattoon**. [1625-35; < Sp *retiño* sprout, *retor* to sprout again in the fall, equiv. to *re-* *re-* + *-oñor*; deriv. of *otoño* AUTUMN] —**ra-toon'er**, n.

rat' race', Informal. any exhausting, unremitting, and usually competitive activity or routine, esp. a pressured urban working life spent trying to get ahead with little time left for leisure, contemplation, etc. [1935-40, Amer.]

rat's-bane (rate'bān'), n. 1. rat poison. 2. the trioxide of arsenic. [1515-25; RAT + 'BANE]

rat'snake', any of several New and Old World colubrid snakes of the genus *Elaeophis*, that feed chiefly on animal mammals and birds. Also called house snake. [1855-60]

rat's nest'. See mare's nest (def. 2).

rat-tail (rä tāl'), n. grenadier (def. 4). Also, **rat'tail**. [1695-1705]

rat-tail cactus, a cactus, *Aporocactus flagelliformis*, of Mexico, having alim, cylindrical stems that are easily trained into strange designs, and crimson flowers. [1895-1900]

rat'tail comb', a comb for the hair having a narrow, pointed handle used in styling the hair. [1975-80]

rat'-tailed mag'got (rä tāld'), the aquatic larva of any of several syrphid flies of the genus *Eristalis*, that breathes through a long, thin tube at the posterior end of its body.

rat'-tail file', a long, narrow file having a circular cross section. [1840-50]

rat-tan (rä tan', -rā), n. 1. Also called **rattan' palm**. any of various climbing palms of the genus *Calamus* or allied genera. 2. the tough stems of such palms, used for wickerwork, canes, etc. 3. a stick or switch of this material. Also, **ratan**. [1650-60; by uncert. mediation < Malay *rotan*, alleged to derive from *roti* scrape off, with an nominalizing suffix]

rat-teen (rä tēn'), n. Obs. ratiné.

rat-ter (rät'er), n. a person, animal, or thing that catches rats, as a terrier or a cat. [1825-35; RAT + -ER]

rat-ter'ier, a terrier of any of several breeds developed esp. for catching rats, as the Manchester terrier. [1850-55]

Rat-ti-gan (rät'i gen), n. Terence. 1911-77, English playwright.

rat-tish (rät'ish), adj. 1. of, pertaining to, characteristic of, or resembling a rat. 2. infested with rats. [1880-90; RAT + -ISH']

rat-tle' (rätl'), v., -tied, -tling. n. —v.t. 1. to give out or cause a rapid succession of short, sharp sounds, as in consequence of agitation and repeated concussions: The windows rattled in their frames. 2. to move or go, esp. rapidly, with such sounds: The car rattled along the highway. 3. to talk rapidly; chatter: He rattled on for an hour about his ailments. —v.i. 4. to cause to rattle: He rattled the doorknob violently. 5. to drive, send, bring, etc., esp. rapidly, with rattling sounds: The wind rattled across the roadway. 6. to utter or

perform in a rapid or lively manner: to rattle off a list of complaints. 7. to disconcert or confuse (a person): A sudden noise rattled the speaker. 8. Hunting. to stir up (a cover). —n. 9. a rapid succession of short, sharp sounds, as from the collision of hard bodies. 10. an instrument contrived to make a rattling sound, esp. a baby's toy filled with small pellets that rattle when shaken. 11. the series of horns, interlocking elements at the end of the tail of a rattlesnake, with which it produces a rattling sound. 12. a rattling sound in the throat, as the death rattle. [1260-1300; ME *raten* (v.), *ratten* (n.) (c. D *raten*, G *rassen*); imit.]

—Syn. 1. chitter, knock. 7. discompose. 9. clatter.

rat-tle' (rätl'), v.t., -tied, -tling. Naut. to furnish with ratlines (usually fol. by down). [1720-30; back-formation from rattling RATLINE (taken as verbal n.)]

rat-tle-brain (rätl' brān'), n. a giddy, empty-headed, talkative person. [1700-10; RATTLE' + BRAIN]

rat-tle-brained (rätl' brānd), adj. foolish; flighty; scatterbrained. [1710-20; RATTLE' + BRAIN + -ED']

rat-tle-bush (rätl' bōsh'), n. See blue false Indigo. [1740-50]

rat-tle-head (rätl' hed'), n. a rattlebrain. [1635-45; RATTLE' + HEAD] —**rat-tle-the-head**, adj.

rat-tle-pate (rätl' pāt'), n. a rattlebrain. [1635-45; RATTLE' + PATE'] —**rat-tle-pat-ed**, adj.

rat-tler (rätl'r), n. 1. a rattlesnake. 2. a person or thing that rattles. 3. Informal. a fast freight train. [1400-50; late ME; see RATTLE', -ER']

rat-tle-snake (rätl' snāk'), n. any of several New World pit vipers of the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*, having a rattle composed of a series of horny, interlocking elements at the end of the tail. [1620-30, Amer. RATTLE' + SNAKE]



rat'tlesnake fern', any of several American ferns, esp. *Botrychium virginianum*, having clusters of sporangia resembling the rattles of a rattlesnake. [1805 16, Amer.]

rat'tlesnake mas'ter, 1. any of various plants of the genus *Eryngium*, esp. *E. yuccifolium*, having spiny leaves and dense, rounded flower heads. 2. any of several other plants, esp. of the genus *Liatris*. [1800-10 Amer.]

rat'tlesnake plan'tain, any of several low, terrestrial orchids, as *Goodyera repens*, of northern temperate regions, having a basal rosette of leaves with white veins and a one-sided spike of white flowers. [1770-84 Amer.]

rat'tlesnake root', 1. any of certain composite plants of the genus *Prenanthes*, whose roots or tubers have been regarded as a remedy for snake bites, as *J. serpentina* or *F. alba*. 2. the root or tuber. 3. th amakroot, *Polygonia senega*. 4. its root. [1675-85]

rat'tlesnake weed', 1. a hawkweed, *Hieracium venosum*, of eastern North America, whose leaves are thought to possess medicinal properties. 2. carotid weed, *Daucus pusillus*, of southern and western North America. 3. any of certain other plants, as a umbelliferous plant, *Eryngium aquaticum*. 4. See rat'tlesnake plantain. [1750-60, Amer.]

rat-tle-trap (rätl' trap'), n. a shaky, rattling object as a rickety vehicle. [1760-70; RATTLE' + TRAP']

rat-tling (rätl' ling), adj. 1. that rattles: a rattling doo. 2. remarkably good, lively, or fast: a rattling talk; a rattling gallop. —adv. 3. very: a rattling good tim [1350-1400; ME rateling; see RATTLE', -ING'] —**rat-tling-ly**, adv.

rat-tly (rätl'), adj. tending to rattle; making or having a rattling sound. [1880-90; RATTLE' + -Y']

rat-ton (rätn'), n. Dial. a rat. [1250-1300; ME *rat* < OF *raton*, dim. of RAT]

rat-toon (rä tōōn'), n., u.t. ratoon.

rat-trap (rätl' trap'), n. 1. a device for catching rats, a run-down, filthy, or dilapidated place. 3. a difficult, involved, or entangling situation. [1425-75; late ME. S. RAT, TRAP']

rat-ty (rätl'), adj. -tier, -ties. 1. full of rats. 2. or characteristic of a rat. 3. wretched; shabby; a rat-ter overcoat. 4. Stang. irritable or angry; bad-tempered; nasty: I always feel ratty when I wake up. [186 65; RAT + -Y']

Rau (rou), n. San-sa Ra-ma (san'sha rā'mē), bo 1923, Indian writer and astrologer.

rau'cou-s (rä'kōs), adj. 1. harsh; strident; grating voices; raucous laughter. 2. rowdy; disorderly; raucous party. [1760-70; < L *raucus* hoarse, harsh; *raucus*, adj. 2. Stang. irritable or angry; bad-tempered; nasty: I always feel ratty when I wake up. [186 65; RAT + -Y']] —**rau'cou-sly**, adv. —**rau'cou-ness**, **rau'cou-ty** (rä'shētē), n.

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, aćt; cape, dār; pārt; set, sēt; Equal; if, ī; iō, īō; order, oil, ūbōt; out, ūt; ūrg; child; ūg; ūsh; th; that, th; ah as in treasure, o = o as in alone, e as in system, i as in rainy, ī as in gallon, u as in circus; ū as in fire (fīr'), ūr; ūl and ū can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), a button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.